was a miscellaneous and novel lot of constitutional projects and fruitless discussion, interspersed with which was a sobering sense of responsibility which defeated most of the iconoclast amendments and which provided intelligent and constructive debate.

President Claro M. Recto presided over the Convention with judicial fairness. His tolerant and tactful hand guided and pushed forward the constitutional document to completion. Practically all the delegates joined their President in helping to mold an acceptable constitution. But the one delegate whose transcendent ability was most generally recognized by his fellows was Delegate Manuel A. Roxas.

This was a remarkable tribute to Roxas' standing, all the more startling because of the circumstances which surrounded it. When the Constitutional Convention opened, the *Antis* were in the majority and the *Pros* in the minority, and Roxas belonged to the minority. By mutual agreement partisanship was banned and the offices were divided, with Roxas contenting himself with modest membership on the Sponsorship Committee and later on the Drafting Committee. In these central committees and later on the floor of the Convention his better preparation, his constant industry, and his quick intellect soon permitted him to dominate the task. So Manuel A. Roxas of the minority, by agreeing to cooperate and by taking a place in the ranks, emerged in the Convention to become its leader and one of the draftsmen of his country's

first constitution.

The Constitution was approved on February 8, 1935, lacking one vote of unanimity. The Constitution was formally signed on February 19, 1935, amidst motion-picture scenes, with one delegate affixing his signature with blood freshly drawn from his veins. The Constitutional Convention could then adjourn with the assurance that it had patriotically and conscientiously tried to produce a good constitution.